

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-14 NSC-10 DODE-00 M-03 A-01 PPT-02

SCS-03 VO-03 SCA-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /143 W
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R 171021 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8451

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMSHION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USUN NEW YORK 6302

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06677

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CPAS, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PASSPORT POLICY

REF: USNATO 1234 1338

1. FRENCH ARE INCREASINGLY WORRIED ABOUT FAILURE TO RESOLVE LIBYAN PASSPORT PROBLEM AND MAY NOW BE WILLING TO CONSIDER COUNTERMEASURE TO BREAK IMPASSE. QUAI LIBYAN DESK OFFICER LECLERC AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR DE WARREN TOLD EMBOFF, MARCH 16, THAT SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO LIBYAN PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS REMAINED CONFUSED. ON FEBRUARY 19, LIBYAN EMBASSY IN PARIS SENT TO QUAI REQUIRING GOF TO PROVIDE AUTHENTICATED ARABIC TRANSLATION OF PASSPORT DETAILS IN ALL DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS PRESENTED FOR VISAS. FRENCH HAVE REFUSED TO COMPLY AND AT LEAST ONE DIPLOMAT
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IS UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO POST. FRENCH HAVE ALSO NOTED SPEECH BY QUADDHAFI TO STUDENT CONGRESS IN BENGHAZI MARCH 5 WHICH REAFFIRMED COMMITMENT TO ARABIC LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT. ON OTHER HAND, DURING CONCORDE FLIGHT OVER MEDITERRANEAN WHICH GOF PROVIDED TO ALL ARAB AMBASSADORS EARLIER IN WEEK, LIBYAN CHARGE' ASSURED QUAI DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS DE COMMINES THAT EXCEPTION PROVIOUSLY MADE BY LARG WOULD BE FULLY HONORED, THEREBY IMPLYING THAT REQUIREMENT CONTINUED IN FEBRUARY 19 NOTE MIGHT BE IGNORED.

2. IN ANY CASE, DE WARREN SAID HE AND COLLEAGUES BEGINNING TO HAVE DOUBTS WHETHER WAITING TACTICS WHICH THEY HAD ADVOCATED OVER LAST THREE MONTHS WERE GOING TO BE EFFECTIVE. THEY HAD HOPED THAT EXCEPTIONS PROCEDURE WOULD BE FACE- SAVING DEVICE FOR LIBYAN TO BACK AWAY FROM THEIR EXTREAME POSITION AND THAT ULTIMATELY WHOLE PROBLEM MIGHT FADE AWAY. THIS SEEMED INCREASINGLY LESS LIKELY, AND QUAI NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TIME HAD COME TO TAKE COUNTERMEASURES. HE THOUGHT NEXT NATO POLAD' S MEETING MIGHT BE OCCASION FOR DISCUSSION COUNTERMEASURES, THOUGH QUAI HIGHER LEVELS HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT FRENCH POSITION SHOULD BE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSUME THAT GOF ABOUT TO PARTICIPATE MORE VIGOROUSLY IN MULTILATERAL EFFORTS DESIGNED TO PUT PRESSURE ON LARG, GOF THINKING SEEMS TO BE EVOLVING IN DIRECTION CLOSER TO OUR OWN.
KUBISCH

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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